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"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 2826"

Docket No.: 215544US2

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/986,004
Applicants: Takuji MATSUMOTO, et al.
Filing Date: November 7, 2001
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD OF
MANUFACTURING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 2826
Examiner: SEFER, AM. N.

SIR:

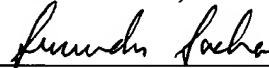
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response to Office Action Dated April 23, 2003

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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DOCKET NO.: 215544US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKUJI MATSUMOTO, ET AL. : EXAMINER: SEFER, AM. N.
SERIAL NO: 09/986,004 :
FILED: NOVEMBER 7, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2826
FOR: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND :
METHOD OF MANUFACTURING
THE SAME

#17
Response
Jmcmillan
7/12/03

RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending; Claims 4-7 and 13-20 are withdrawn from consideration; and no claims have been newly added, cancelled, or amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,455,894, hereafter Matsumoto); Claims 1 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kunikiyo (U.S. Pat. No. 6,545,318); and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kunikiyo in view of Aoki et al. (JP 1-268063, hereafter Aoki).